

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W
-----088801 021437Z /43

R 011520Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6178
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USUN NEW YORK 130

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR PGOV BH GT MX UK
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION MEMBER SUSPENDED FROM HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

1. OPPOSITION UDP MEMBER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PHILIP GOLDSON WAS SUSPENDED FROM HOUSE AT END OF
RAUCOUS FEBRUARY 24 SITTING. SUSPENSION IS TO REMAIN
IN EFFECT FOR REMAINDER OF CURRENT SESSION--I.E., UNTIL
THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS--OR UNTIL GOLDSON IS ALLOWED BY
HOUSE RESOLUTION TO REASSUME HIS SEAT.

2. HOUSE ACTION TOOK PLACE FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF BILL
GIVING VOTE AND OTHER MAJORITY RIGHTS TO 18 YEAR OLDS.
GOLDSON REPORTEDLY ROSE TO INTRODUCE UDP-SPONSORED
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TEN YEAR POSTPONEMENT OF INDE-
PENDENCE QUESTION AND BEGAN LENGTHY STATEMENT IN SUPPORT
OF RESOLUTION. WHEN SPEAKER OF HOUSE, WHO HAD GRANTED
GOLDSON ONLY A FEW MINUTES FOR REMARKS, TRIED TO CUT
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HIM OFF, GOLDSON PERSISTED IN ROUGH FASHION (ENTIRE
DAY APPARENTLY WAS SINGULARLY DEVOID OF PARLIMENTARY
ETIQUETTE), FINALLY DARING SPEAKER TO "NAME" HIM UNDER
HOUSE STANDING ORDER WHICH PROVIDES FOR SPEAKER'S CALL-
ING ATTENTION OF HOUSE TO DISRESPECT ON PART OF A
MEMBER. THUS GOADED, SPEAKER PREDICTABLY NAMED GOLDSON,
AND ON PREMIER PRICE'S MOTION, HOUSE SUSPENDED HIM. WHERE-

UPON REMAINING UDP MEMBERS OF HOUSE WALKED OUT.

3. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT, IF ANY STRAIN THESE EVENTS WILL PLACE ON BELIZEAN POLITICS OR INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE. UPSHOT PROBABLY DEPENDS LARGELY UPON LENGTH OF TIME UDP LEADER DEAN LINDO AND OTHER OPPOSITION HOUSE MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO STAY OUT IN SUPPORT OF GOLDSON (WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT SOME POINT SEATS CAN BE DECLARED VACANT) AND/OR WHETHER GOLDSON REINSTATED. SPEAKER OF HOUSE HAS TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT SIMPLE APOLOGY FROM GOLDSON WOULD RESULT IN SPEAKER'S RECOMMENDATION TO HOUSE THAT HE BE REINSTATED. HOWEVER, GOLDSON REPORTEDLY FEELS VERY STRONGLY ABOUT ISSUE, CLAIMING THAT SPEAKER HAD NO RIGHT TO LIMIT TIME TO REMARKS IN FIRST PLACE AND THAT WHOLE EPISODE THEREFORE FOLLOWED FROM SPEAKER'S VIOLATION OF HOUSE PROCEDURES. GOLDSON APPEARS AT THIS POINT TO ENJOY LINDO'S FULL BACKING IN THIS, AND STANDOFF THUS SEEMS IN OFFING.

4. IN UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT UDP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LIONEL TILLET ANNOUNCED AT FEBRUARY 27 UDP RALLY THAT LINDO AND PARTY CHAIRMAN MANUAL ESQUIVEL HAD LEFT BELIZE LAST WEEKEND ON MISSION OF IMPORTANCE TO FUTURE OF COUNTRY. DESTINATION AND PURPOSE OF TRIP WERE NOT SPECIFIED, BUT UDP SENATOR KENNETH TILLET TOLD US NEXT DAY THAT LINDO AND ESQUIVEL HAD GONE TO MEXICO FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT UDP POSITION ON INDEPENDENCE.
WALSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELIZE00199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-1011
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803121/aaaadzar.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5595ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3162049
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION MEMBER SUSPENDED FROM HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, BH, GT, MX, UK, UDP, (GOLDSON, PHILIP)
To: STATE GUATEMALA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5595ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014